

AREA OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL COMMUNE OF KAPALA

HISTORY:

The rural commune of KAPALA was created after the Mali decentralization program held in 1999. There are 9 villages with an estimated population of 12000 inhabitants. Ngolokouna is one of the villages of this commune.

OUR REALITIES :

Kapala commune is located south of Sikasso. One can find big trees like Shea-trees, baobab tree and some small trees. Agriculture and animal breeding are the main activities. The main farming is: millet, sorghum, rice, corn and peanuts. Men do cows, sheep, and goats breeding and women do poultry. Children help their parents in the household activities. Girls wash utensils and crush millet; boys go to the field or follow plough-oxen during the rainy season.

MAIN ISSUES OF CHILDREN:

In Kapala rural commune children have lots of problems:

- There is a lack of benches
- No school has a fence
- Members of the school management committee members cannot read and write.
- Some families don't want to send their girls to school as they don't know children's rights.
- Lots of our teachers are not qualified
- Some girls are withdrawn from school and married at a young age
- Garbage is everywhere near water points during the rainy season
- Women are not well organized for doing small generating income projects.
- Most of the girls are excised
- Insufficiency of potable water points.

BASIC SERVICES:

Education: Kapala commune has 6 primary schools, 2 medersas, 2 middle high school, 2 early development centers

Health: There is a community health center

Commune perspectives:

Kapala commune with the help of other partners like BSA is planning to realize the following projects in the coming year.

- Building of new classrooms in Ngolokouna and Katiorni
- Supplying schools with books; there are only two mud brick classes in Ngolokouna for 3 classes, grades 1, 3, & 5. This is where Build a School in Africa hopes to build our next school
- Digging new water points at school

There are only two mud brick classrooms in Ngolokouna with 46 pupils in three grades: Grade 1, grade 3 and grade 5. Grade 1 and 3 are in the same class. There are two teachers.

Latrines are not convenient for boys and girls. There is no headmasters' office.

It's really urgent to help this community.

Close to Ngolokouna there is another village with only one cement block class.



Grade 1 and 3



Grade 5



Poor latrines for girls and boys. These do not have sealed tanks, so they can contaminate drinking water supplies if they are too near a well. The latrines BSA builds have concrete pits to protect local water sources.



The two existing mud-brick classrooms in Ngolokouna. As you can see in the top and bottom photos, the windows are very small, so the rooms are dark and stuffy. During the hot season (March to mid-June) daily temperatures can be as high as 50 degrees Celsius - about 120 Fahrenheit. The classrooms we plan to build have high roofs with air vents at the eaves, three large windows in the back of each classroom and 2 windows plus the door in the front, providing good cross-ventilation and light, as these villages, like most rural communities in Mali, do not have electricity.